

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
Disarmament	17	Sweden	19
Obituary	18	Notes from Ireland	19
Review	18	United States	19
Australia	18	Industrial Legislation for Women.....	20
Hungary	18	Section Française	21

DISARMAMENT.

It is unfortunately impossible for a paper issued monthly and under conditions which frequently necessitate going to press rather early in the previous month, to deal with the quickly changing events of the international scene, including the work for Disarmament. Too often what we publish must seem hopelessly out-of-date, but we cannot think that a brief reference to the really remarkable effort made by the various peace organisations on October 15th can be without interest. The Demonstration itself was held in the Salle de la Réformation, which was packed and the following Resolution was adopted:

This Meeting

Expresses its earnest desire for the successful issue of the World Disarmament Conference and the conclusion of a Convention assuring equality of status and security for all nations and the co-operation of states to educate their public opinion in the spirit and methods of peace, and embodying at least the following points:

Abolition within a specified period of "aggressive weapons," including the air weapon.

Substantial reduction of armaments and limitation of expenditure.

A permanent organisation to exercise a strict supervision of existing armaments including their manufacture and sale, to prevent re-armament by any State, and to prepare for further disarmament.

The following day a Deputation, led by Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, presented the Resolution to the Chairman of the Disarmament Conference, Mr. Henderson, and a special number of the Official Journal of the Conference was issued giving an account of the Deputa-

tion and a list of the extraordinary number of Resolutions sent in from all over the world in support of Disarmament. It is an amazing list, and women may well feel proud at the evidence it gives of the intensive work of women's organisations. In the record of well-known men and women and of organisations representing all interests, those of women's societies, including many of our Alliance Auxiliaries, figure very prominently, and in the message from Mr. Henderson to those who are helping in the Disarmament Campaign, appear the following words:

To secure disarmament, we must break with ancient and powerful traditions. We must induce governments to give up the belief in their own armed force as the basis of their national safety, and to put their faith in international agreements to co-operate and to settle disputes peacefully.

Armaments and national safety must become matters of world concern and both must be subordinated to the rule of Law as embodied in treaties.

It is public opinion and public opinion alone, which can make governments realise these facts sufficiently vividly to give them the courage to act. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the educational and propaganda work done by the organisations, and notably by the Women's Organisations, which have sent in petitions to the League, held meetings, and explained to public opinion precisely what must be done to get disarmament. It is through this work that disarmament has become a burning political issue which no government can refuse to face. It is this work that will in the long run make disarmament inevitable and peace secure.

We do not know what the position may be when these

words actually reach our readers, but whether things look brighter or darker, the above should surely bring home to all those who are working in this cause the vital importance of that work and the great force of public opinion which it has behind it.

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Dr. Elizabeth Knight, for twenty years the Treasurer of our affiliated Society, the Women's Freedom League of Great Britain. She was a student of Newnham College, Cambridge, and took her medical degree in London in 1904, taking the Cambridge D.P.H. later. She was a valued member of the staff of four London hospitals, but gave up much of her time to devoted work for the women's movement. In the fight for the vote, she was twice imprisoned for refusing to pay taxes, and also for taking part in deputations to the Government. She took a prominent part in the opposition to the attempt during the war to re-introduce compulsory examination of prostitutes, and indeed was always to the fore in every fight for women's freedom.

Dr. Knight was always interested in the international movement and was a staunch friend to the Alliance, as those of our members who met her in Berlin or Marseilles will well realise. Her loss will be deeply felt not only in her own society, but to the whole movement. She was a member of the Society of Friends and gave a splendid example of the virtues of quiet courage, tenacity and generous kindness which are characteristic of that body. Her name will always be honoured among that body of noble women who were ready to sacrifice themselves without thought of self for the freedom and dignity of womanhood.

REVIEW.

THE STRUCTURE OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. By Lyman Cromwell White. George S. Ferguson Co., 15, North Seventh Street, Philadelphia.

As the author states in his preface, this is the first general survey of private international organisations, and as he truly says these organisations, which run into at least many hundreds, have a very great importance to anyone who desires to study the whole field of international work.

The survey is confined to international bodies which are not controlled by Governments, which have some form of permanent organisation and whose purpose is not pecuniary profit, and they have been divided into ten groups, the definition and classification of which form part of the introductory chapter. Thereafter the chapters deal with the constitution, preparation for, and other matters concerned with Conferences or Congresses; the varying composition and powers of Executive bodies; Secretariats; Finance; Membership, etc. The conclusions arrived at are briefly summarised in a concluding chapter.

The book is really a dissection and comparison of the structure of the thirty-seven organisations selected, based on information obtained directly from the societies themselves and most courteously submitted to them for the opportunity of correction, as the Secretary of the Alliance can testify. It is a reference book, such as is difficult to review further than by the above brief indication of its purpose, and by paying a well-deserved tribute to the immense labour and care for accuracy shown by the author. He suggests, and rightly, that it will well repay study by those responsible for the carrying on of international organisations, who may find useful hints from comparing their own methods with those of other like bodies.—K. B.

AUSTRALIA.

When Tasmania's new Governor (Sir Ernest Clark) arrived in Hobart on 4th August, 1933, a levee was held at the Town Hall in order that prominent citizens and members of official and semi-official bodies might be presented to the King's Representative.

Although Tasmanian women have, after a long battle, achieved prominence in the public eye, no women were officially notified of the levee or invited to be present. Mrs. Lesley Murdoch (wife of the Hon. Thomas Murdoch, M.L.C.) who, in addition to her public work in other directions, is a member of the Council of the University of Tasmania, remedied this peculiar though perhaps unintentional slur on her sex, by arriving at the Town Hall at the hour appointed. No sooner was she inside the sacred precincts than an official hurried up and informed her that "women were not admitted." Mrs. Murdoch replied that she was there not as a woman, but as a member of the governing body of one of Tasmania's most venerable institutions—the University. Despite several other attempts to guide her politely from the building, Mrs. Murdoch quietly took her place among the other leading citizens and was presented to His Excellency as a representative of the University Council.

Although she was the only woman who thus defied outworn prejudices and upheld the new truth that women acting officially are officials rather than women, and have a right so to be regarded, Mrs. Murdoch's action was pointedly ignored by the local press—a piquant instance of the freemasonry existing among men who are determined that women shall not share in the dignity and service of public life.

The Australian Federation of Women Voters in co-operation with its affiliated societies in New South Wales, has carried out a very full autumn programme of meetings on various questions, including the Federal Constitution and electoral reform; Currency, Credit, etc., as well as more purely feminist subjects and a special meeting to re-call the achievements of the women pioneers and how they should inspire present action.

HUNGARY.

We have received an interesting Report from Mrs. Meller on the activities of the Egysesulete, which we regret that space does not allow us to publish. Encouraged by the success of the "Peace School" lectures, the society is organising a course of twelve lectures on woman's position, both in public and personal life, including her economic position. They have also had a series of tea-parties with lectures on various points, including "The Emancipation of Women in Persia," and an English Forum with speakers in English.

Together with five other organisations, a meeting and petition to the Government was organised to protest against the discriminations against women in the Hague Nationality Convention. Resolutions from the society's General Meeting were also forwarded to the Government on: Universal Suffrage by secret ballot; education in the spirit of peace; the conclusion of commercial treaties with other States in the spirit of international solidarity and co-operation; and the employment of women police. Other petitions were sent in against the attempt to substitute men for married women workers, to which the Ministries of Commerce and Justice made the satisfactory reply that there was no intention of dismissing women.

Protests were made against the treatment of minorities in Germany and Yugoslavia, and Resolutions in favour of Disarmament were sent to Geneva.

The Autumn season of lectures has so far included

questions of peace, education, and social evolution from early tribal times. As a member of the Hungarian National Council of Women, the Feministak Egyesulete is concerned with the question of substituting constructive toys for war toys for children; laws for the protection of children from sexual offences; and the fears entertained by women workers with regard to the Washington Convention for prohibition of night work. They dread its effect on their employment, and also that in some cases the law may be evaded with a consequent lack of supervision and the worsening of conditions for women who may still, though illegally, be employed at night.

This necessarily brief summary shows how active the society is in pushing on with its programme in spite of all the present difficulties.

SWEDEN.

"Women in face of the World Crisis" was the title of a public meeting held at Konserthuset in Stockholm at the end of October. The meeting was organised by several women's societies in protest against the reaction shown in different parts of Europe against women's equality with men, in consequence of the economic crisis and the new political outlook.

Fröken Kerstin Hesselgren was in the Chair and speakers included Dr. Lydia Wahlström, Fröken Elisabeth Tamm, Fröken Ingeborg Walin, Fru Signe Wessman and Dr. Andrea Andreen-Svedberg.

The following resolution was adopted:

Women, united at a meeting at Konserthuset, Stockholm, have unanimously decided to issue the following statement:

The recognition of the individual value of each human being, without regard to sex, race or class, is one of the highest achievements of civilisation. Owing to the world crisis, this recognition is losing ground and in consequence freedom, equality and justice may cease to stand as the ideals on which society is based.

The reaction is particularly directed against women as workers in the community and threatens drastically to limit their field of activity.

We Swedish women here representing various spheres of work and different political opinions, consider that the full recognition of women's citizenship is of incalculable value to the community and we are determined to defend.

OUR RIGHT to professional training and to the practice of the professions based on aptitude and inclination and without regard to civil status; and

OUR RIGHT AND DUTY to place our experience and ability at the disposal of the community.

We wish to work for the economic and social advancement of women and men as citizens.

We appeal to women to unite in a campaign for the right of human beings to self determination and to take responsibility.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

Visit of Miss Neilans.

Women Citizens' Associations in Ireland have been greatly encouraged and helped by a visit from Miss Alison Neilans. Meetings were held in Dublin and Belfast and the advice and information she gave to all the workers were of especial value in Dublin. There has been no change in the Criminal Law in this country since the Irish Free State was established in 1921, though in Northern Ireland an Act has been carried on the lines of the British Act of 1922 (Raising of the Age of Consent). It has been stated that the Government of the Free State has drafted a measure of Criminal Law Reform under which the Age of Consent will be raised to 17 or 18, and it is possible that the defence of "reas-

onable ground of belief" (i.e., that the girl is over the age) will be abolished. Women's societies have of course pressed for this for many years.

Miss Chenvix of the Irish Women Workers' Union presided at the Public Meeting and Professor Mary Hayden at the Conference. A resolution was carried unanimously urging the immediate introduction of legislation on the lines indicated above and deprecating in the most emphatic manner any increase of penalties which would contravene the "single standard of morality."

Recognition of Women by Dublin University.

Miss Olice Constance Pursar has been elected as a representative of the Senate on the University Council. Miss Pursar graduated in 1908 with a Senior Moderatorship in Classics and a Senior Moderatorship (with Large Gold Medal) in Modern Literature. She is the first woman elected to the Council of the University. Trinity College, the constituent College of Dublin University, was one of the first to give degrees to women, and Miss Pursar's election is in accordance with Dublin tradition.

British Medical Association.

The B.M.A. met this year in Dublin and the position of women doctors in Dublin and London was frequently considered. At a dinner given by the newly-elected President of the Association reference was made to the fact that one reason for the foundation of the English College of Physicians in 1518 was the need "to put down the smiths, weavers and women who were practising divers cures to the great damage of the King's lieges." The President added that he "noticed with some little regret that women were not yet admitted to the Fellowship of the English College. In this they had not followed the precedent set by Ireland."

UNITED STATES.

Under the National Industrial Recovery Act, the major piece of legislation enacted by the United States Congress in this country's effort to deal with the forces of depression, approximately one thousand "codes of fair competition" have been submitted to the National Recovery Administration. Two hundred codes have been considered in a public hearing and seventy-six have been approved by the President. Among the many provisions of these codes, those relating to child labour and to a differential in the minimum wages to be paid men and women are of particular interest to women.

The first permanent code to be signed by the President—that of the cotton textile industry—provided that no children under sixteen should be employed. Also the so-called blanket code or President's Re-employment Agreement (which, with specific modifications for particular industries, governs the industries subscribing to it until December 31st, 1933, or until such date as the permanent code of fair competition for a particular industry is approved) incorporated this principle:

"Children under 16 years. Not to employ any person under 16 years of age, except that persons between 14 and 16 may be employed (but not in manufacturing or mechanical industries) for not to exceed 3 hours per day and those hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. in such work as will not interfere with hours of day school."

While there is no wage differential in the blanket code, many industries have been successful in securing modifications providing for a lower minimum wage to be paid women under the temporary codes. In all but nine of the first sixty-five permanent codes approved, no differential between men's and women's wages exists.

Where there is a wage difference it varies from two and one-half cents an hour to five cents an hour, but in practically all of the codes which contain a wage differential, the following clause or its equivalent has been inserted:

"The above minimum wages shall not in any way be considered as a discrimination by reason of sex, and where in any case women do substantially the same work or perform substantially the same duties as men they shall receive the same rate of wages as men receive for doing such work or performing such duties."

Child labour under sixteen has been prohibited in all permanent codes approved to date.

It is estimated by the Office of Education and the United States Children's Bureau that between 50,000 and 100,000 children can be in school this year because of the codes adopted prohibiting child labour under sixteen years. The need of the schools at this time for adequate revenue is acute and the problem of caring for an additional number of pupils must be faced in many communities. Federal assistance is available insofar as the Public Works Administration has authorized the use of funds for building and repairs of schools.

"Unusual success" in supporting and opposing state legislation was reported by Miss Belle Sherwin, president to the Executive Committee of the National League of Women Voters, in October. Miss Sherwin's report summarized the activities of thirty-two affiliated state Leagues of Women Voters during the 1933 state legislative sessions and showed that of 293 bills supported, 145 or 49 per cent. were enacted, and that of 130 bills opposed, 103 or 79 per cent. were killed.

Measures relating to child welfare and industrial conditions of women accounted for the largest number of bills supported by the state Leagues, but measures to improve the structure and functions of government were a close second. Of the former, 71 measures were enacted; of the latter, 51. Forty bills seriously crippling educational facilities were opposed—26 successfully.

"Scarcely a state League," said Miss Sherwin, "escaped the necessity of defending educational standards. Over one-half of the Leagues reporting supported appropriations for maternity and infancy hygiene work, and in eight of the nine states which ratified the Child Labour Amendment the League actively participated in its passage. Ten state Leagues defeated bills breaking down the direct primary laws. In nine states the League successfully fought against bills providing for the discharge of married women workers. In three of the seven states where minimum wage laws were passed, the League was an important factor in the outcome."

The World Court was a subject for legislation in three states. In two states the League was instrumental in securing passage of memorials to the Congress urging adherence of the United States to the World Court, and in another the League successfully defeated a memorial urging the equality reservation to the Court. Other bills supported related to items under the following departments of the League's programme of work: Legal Status of Women, Social Hygiene, and Living Costs.

The Indiana League of Women Voters ranked first among the state Leagues in the percentage of success. Seven of the nine bills which it supported in the legislative session were enacted.

MORE WOMEN M. P. S.

Lady Peacock is the first woman to be elected to the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, Australia.

Three women were elected to Parliament in the recent elections in Norway, Dr. Signe Swensson, Mrs. Helga Karlsen and Mrs. Helga Ramstad.

INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

No. 3. BELGIUM.

The Belgian answer is the result of an enquête by Mme. Maria Baers, Secretary General of the Christian Women Workers' Organisation and member of the Upper Labour Council. For the persons consulted, see Appendix.

I. Laws and Regulations in regard to adult workers, men and women.

Regarding *Night Work*, the Eight Hour Day Law of June 14th, 1921, stipulates that the working day shall comprise the hours between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., with exceptions for certain enterprises, especially those working in shifts. Night work is, however, prohibited for all women irrespective of age. The nightly rest shall have a duration of 11 consecutive hours, which shall comprise the time between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

There are no special regulations as to *weight lifting*. Regarding *dangerous or unhealthy work* there is a law prohibiting women from working in the lead industry. Another law on the work of Women and Children permits the King to prohibit the employment of children under 16 years of age, as well as women and girls under 21, in work exceeding their strength or being dangerous to them.

There is no legislation on *Minimum Wages*, but a proposal is under discussion for the regulation of minimum wages in home industries. The passing of this law would permit Belgium to ratify the 1928 Convention on Minimum Wages.

II. *Maternity Regulations*. Women are prohibited from working during the first four weeks after their confinement. There exist as yet no compulsory allowances. This question is closely connected with the question of Maternity Insurance dealt with in a Bill on Social Insurance introduced by the Government.

There is no discrimination against the married woman worker as such.

III. Although looking particularly for instance at the legislation regarding work in coal mines underground, protective legislation has resulted in work formerly performed by women being now done by men, these restrictions do not on the whole seem to have had great influence either on the possibilities of work for women or on their wages. The women have found employment in other ways, and the limitations have had favourable effects on the moral tone in workshops, etc., and on the health of the married women and that of their children.

As far as it is stated to be known there have been no protests against legislative measures regulating women's work, and in general the women accept such protective measures without difficulty. It cannot be gainsaid that industry, needing the work of women, has adapted itself to the legal requirements. It has been found advantageous to keep the women because, unfortunately, and although important increases in wages have been made since 1919, women's wages in most industries are far below those of men for the same or similar work.

In the opinion of the persons consulted by Mlle. Baers the number of women has rather increased, particularly that of married women workers, as a result of the reduction of the working day to 8 hours. Reports show that women have been introduced into industries where the work is notoriously ill-adapted to a woman's strength. M. Pary, Contrôleur du Travail, says in his answer that women compete with men only because of their lower wages, and he enumerates several industries or processes where women are employed and which in his opinion are not suited to women but ought to be

performed only by men. There are enough trades in the country, he says, which might be reserved for women only so that women need not be exposed to "gross" (?) heavy or dirty work. (M. Pary does not seem to realise that wages in the exclusively feminine trades tend to become lower than women's wages in the mixed trades: *Compiler's note*.)

The Report recognises the favourable results of protective legislation thus: the woman worker is protected, and this legal protection has tended towards increasing the possibilities of work for women, and has had no sinister effect on the wages of the woman worker.

Appendix: List of correspondents consulted by Mlle. M. Baers.

Son. Exe. Mr. Heyman, Ministre de l'Industrie, du Travail et de la prévoyance sociale.

Mr. O. Velghe, docteur en droit, secrétaire général honoraire du Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Hygiène.

Mr. J. Nys, docteur en droit, secrétaire du cabinet du Ministère de l'Industrie, du Travail et de la Prévoyance sociale.

Mr. Victor Pary, Contrôleur du Travail, attaché au Ministère du Travail de Belgique.

Mlle. Berthe de Laliex de la Rocq, secrétaire générale des organisations ouvrières féminines chrétiennes de Belgique.

Mlle. Hélène De Coster, secrétaire de la National Verbond der Christelijke Vrouwengilden van België (organisation des femmes d'ouvriers).

Mlle. Angéline Japsenne, secrétaire de la Fédération Nationale des ligues ouvrières féminines chrétiennes de Belgique.

Mr. Henri Pauwels, secrétaire général de la Confédération des syndicats chrétiens de Belgique.

M. l'abbé Jean Belpaire, licencié en Sciences Sociales, conseiller moral de la Confédération des Syndicats chrétiens de Belgique.

M. L. Vereecke, directeur de la Centrale Chrétienne des Ouvriers Textiles Belges.

M. A. Meeuwissen, secrétaire de la "Centrale Chrétienne des Ouvriers du Transport de Belgique."

FRANCE.

The French Senate by 175 votes to 118 has refused to grant a date for the discussion of woman suffrage.

CHRONIQUE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Une nouvelle Convention contre la Traite des Femmes.—La Nationalité de la femme mariée.—La révision de la Convention de Washington sur le travail de nuit des femmes.

Il est un fait à relever: c'est qu'en ces temps troublés, où l'activité politique de la S.d.N. est forcément ralentie et entravée, son activité sociale, généralement considérée de haut et traitée comme une parente pauvre, prend tout à coup une importance réjouissante. Preuve en est l'intérêt marqué de la délégation française notamment, qui, par l'organe de notre vice-Présidente, Mme. Malaterre, a présenté et fait étudier une proposition d'extension et de réorganisation de l'activité en matière de protection de l'enfance, tendant à faire de la S.d.N. un centre unique au monde comme documentation, étude, et moyens d'action pour cette question; preuve en est également cette Convention contre la traite des femmes majeures, qui, à notre avis, est un des résultats les plus décisifs obtenus par la XIV. ème Assemblée, et pour laquelle seule il aurait valu la peine qu'elle se réunît.

Nos lectrices savent de quoi il s'agit. Les Conven-

tions internationales précédentes contenaient déjà des mesures répressives contre la traite, mais uniquement en ce qui concernait les femmes mineures, les femmes majeures étant censées pouvoir et vouloir se défendre elles-mêmes contre les agissements des trafiquants! Et puis, il faut le déclarer carrément, cette conception de la lutte contre la traite était fort commode pour les pays réglementaristes; en effet, et de plus en plus, toutes les enquêtes, toutes les études objectives, menées, soit pas la S.d.N., soit par des organisations privées, ont prouvé de façon aveuglante de clarté l'étroit rapport entre la traite des femmes et l'existence des maisons, si bien que la définition du trafiquant finissait par pouvoir s'appliquer en même temps au tenancier de maison close. Punir l'un était punir l'autre, et par conséquent atteindre au vif tout le système inique de la réglementation. Aussi est-ce avec grand intérêt que les Associations abolitionnistes, et avec elles les organisations féminines, ont vu se développer peu à peu la tendance à supprimer dans les législations nationales répressives de la traite la distinction entre les victimes majeures et les victimes mineures.

Cette tendance trouva bien vite son écho à la S.d.N., dont l'Assemblée de 1932 avait déclaré, après le Comité consultatif que "la traite était en toutes circonstances un acte profondément immoral et anti-social qui devait être puni, même si les victimes étaient majeures et consentantes." Le Comité Consultatif cependant, chargé d'étudier à cet égard la révision des Conventions, n'avait pu aller aussi loin que nous l'aurions désiré, et avait dû se rallier à une proposition française, qui, si elle déçut de fervents abolitionnistes, n'en constituait pas moins un progrès sensible et une première étape: la suppression de la limite d'âge étant admise, mais le délit restreint à la traite s'exerçant à l'étranger.

C'est cette disposition qui souleva une vive opposition dans quelques milieux abolitionnistes de Grande-Bretagne et de France, opposition que connaissent les lectrices de JUS puisque notre journal a publié un mémoire de l'une de ces organisations sur ce point. On craignait notamment, et cela était juste, que ce terme "dans un pays étranger" ne fût pas applicable aux colonies, protectorats, territoires sous mandat, et que certains pays n'en profitassent pour laisser continuer tranquillement la traite entre la métropole et ces régions, et alimenter de la sorte les maisons de tolérance, qui y fleurissent abondamment, on ne le sait que trop. Et alors on demandait, et à notre avis c'était une erreur, à toutes les abolitionnistes, et à toutes les organisations féminines, de s'opposer à la signature de ce texte, si celui-ci n'était pas amendé de façon à préciser ce que signifiait ce terme de "pays étranger." Erreur de principe d'abord, puisque l'on aurait annulé de la sorte toute sanction de la traite des femmes majeures d'un pays à l'autre; erreur de tactique ensuite, puisque douze gouvernements ayant accépté ce projet en avril par l'intermédiaire de leurs représentants au Comité consultatif, il n'y avait aucune probabilité qu'ils veuillent se déjuger en les désavouant six mois plus tard. L'Alliance avait pris position dès le début de l'été, en envoyant à la S.d.N. une lettre signée de sa présidente et de la présidente de sa Commission d'unité de la morale demandant pour les motifs indiqués plus haut la suppression des mots: "dans un autre pays," tendant de la sorte à amender de façon excellente le projet de Convention proposé.

Telle était la situation quand s'ouvrit l'Assemblée plénière de la S.d.N., à la 5ème Commission de laquelle fut remis l'examen de cette partie de l'ordre du jour, la déléguée britannique, Miss Horsburgh, étant rapporteur. Et les débats présentèrent un intérêt très vif, et on peut le dire, paradoxal: en effet, alors que l'on savait fort bien que les craintes émises sur

l'interprétation de ce terme: "dans un autre pays" visaient surtout la France dans ses relations avec le Maroc ou la Syrie, ce fut une satisfaction très grande d'entendre les déclarations catégoriques du représentant de la délégation française, M. Jules Gautier. "La France est prête à signer maintenant cette convention, annonça en substance M. Gautier, en stipulant nettement qu'elle s'applique aux colonies, aux territoires, aux protectorats, comme à la métropole. La traite des femmes est une honte pour notre civilisation, dont il faut qu'elle se débarrasse au plus vite." Et tandis que nous soupironnions d'aise devant ces affirmations, c'étaient alors d'autres pays qui soulevaient des difficultés, relevaient des arguments juridiques, semblaient avoir peur de s'engager, faisaient machine en arrière, si bien que de voir la France soutenir contre d'autres le point de vue abolitionniste semblait le monde renversé! Finalement une résolution fut votée demandant la réunion prochaine d'une Conférence diplomatique spéciale, seule compétente pour signer cette nouvelle Convention. Cette Conférence, réunie le 9 octobre, et comptant six femmes comme membres, signa définitivement le 11 octobre la nouvelle Convention internationale relative à la traite des femmes majeures, dont l'article premier est ainsi conçu:

Doit être puni quiconque qui, pour satisfaire les passions d'autrui, a embauché, entraîné ou détourné, même avec son consentement, une femme ou une fille majeure en vue de la débauche dans un autre pays, alors même que les divers actes qui sont les éléments constitutifs de l'infraction auraient été accomplis dans des pays différents. La tentative est également punissable. Il en est de même dans les limites légales des actes préparatoires.

Au sens du présent article, l'expression "pays" comprend les colonies et protectorats de la Haute Partie contractante intéressée, ainsi que les territoires sous sa suzeraineté et ceux pour lesquels un mandat lui a été confié.

Voilà qui est net. Le dernier article il est vrai, reprend la question, en laissant, comme dans toute Convention, à chaque Etat signataire la possibilité de déclarer qu'il n'assume pas d'obligation vis-à-vis de l'ensemble ou d'une partie de ses colonies, territoires et protectorats; mais voit-on la situation moralement impossible que se crée un Etat en annonçant par là *coram populo* qu'il autorise la traite dans ces régions? C'est pourquoi nous ne comprenons pas la démarche privée que firent, dans les couloirs, auprès du président de cette Conférence spéciale, M. Limburg, quelques personnalités féminines en faveur d'un autre texte. Si bien que M. Limburg, dont les sentiments peu sympathiques au féminisme sont bien connus de toutes celles qui ont suivi précédemment les débats à la S.d.N. sur la nationalité de la femme, crut pouvoir annoncer en séance de Conférence que l'adoption du texte cité plus haut allait se heurter à "l'opposition acharnée des femmes," et qu'une regrettable confusion risqua de se produire, qui aurait rendu cette Convention moins efficace que nous le désirions. Finalement et heureusement, la première rédaction fut adoptée définitivement, mais cinq des grandes organisations féminines internationales représentées à Genève tinrent à adresser à tous les membres de la Conférence une lettre démentant formellement avoir été consultées à ce sujet, et insistant pour qu'à l'avenir soient seules prises en considération des déclarations officielles de leur part.

Voilà donc un quatrième acte international qui vient s'ajouter à ceux déjà existant contre l'odieux trafic. Et un acte dont la portée est grande à première vue, car la réglementation de la prostitution reçoit du fait de la Convention du 11 octobre 1933 un coup décisif.

* * *

La question de la nationalité de la femme nous prit moins de temps et nous causa moins d'émotion. A vrai dire, aucune de nous ne voyait l'utilité qu'elle revienne à l'ordre du jour de la S.d.N. cette année, tout ce qui avait pu être dit et manifesté ayant été dit et manifesté en 1932, et la résolution très complète votée alors ne pouvant encore avoir produit d'effets. Cependant, le gouvernement chilien ayant demandé l'inscription à l'ordre du jour, elle lui fut courtoisement accordée; mais les débats et la résolution qui en résulta furent purement platoniques. On se borna en effet à exprimer l'espoir qu'avant la prochaine session de l'Assemblée, les gouvernements auront mis la S.d.N. en état de communiquer au Conseil des renseignements sur les modifications introduites par eux dans leur législation nationale concernant l'égalité des sexes en matière de nationalité. C'est tout. Le seul résultat que nous puissions voir à ces débats est d'engager les organisations féminines nationales à intensifier leurs démarches auprès de leurs gouvernements respectifs.

* * *

Nos lectrices ont pu prendre connaissance, dans le dernier numéro de JUS, du mémoire relatif à la révision de la Convention de Washington sur le travail de nuit des femmes, présenté au B.I.T. par plusieurs organisations internationales féminines professionnelles, et appuyé par d'autres organisations féministes et féminines telles que l'Alliance, le Conseil International des Femmes, les W.Y.C.A., l'Equal Rights. Nous saluons cette initiative, non seulement de coordonner les efforts féminins, mais encore de réserver une place à part et en avant en ce qui concerne les questions de travail aux organisations professionnelles, dont la voix a ainsi plus de chance d'être entendue, ce mode de faire cadrant beaucoup mieux avec l'organisation du B.I.T.—chose que l'on a eu un peu de peine à comprendre jusqu'à présent.

Ce mémoire a été communiqué par le B.I.T. lui-même au Conseil d'Administration pour sa réunion du 23 octobre dernier, et le Directeur, M. H. Butler, l'a signalé dans son discours. La discussion n'a malheureusement pas été aussi nourrie que l'on aurait pu l'espérer, et l'absence de femmes au Conseil d'Administration se fait singulièrement sentir dans des cas de ce genre! Il a été décidé d'inscrire, comme nous le demandions, la révision de la Convention à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine Conférence Internationale du Travail (1934), mais seulement sur les deux points déjà discutés lors de la première demande de révision, soit l'exemption des dispositions de la Convention en ce qui concerne les postes de direction (proposition britannique) et le décalage des heures considérées comme travail de nuit (proposition belge). Aucun membre du Conseil n'ayant soulevé la question des femmes travaillant dans les bureaux des usines et fabriques, M. Butler a estimé pouvoir en déduire que l'avis général des Etats était que ces femmes ne tombent pas sous le coup de la Convention, donc que le travail de nuit ne leur est pas interdit.

E.Gd.

RESUME FRANÇAIS.

Australie. La Fédération des Femmes électeurs en coopération avec les sociétés affiliées de la Nouvelle Galles du Sud, d'après le programme tracé à son dernier congrès, a tenu une série de réunions où les questions économiques, politiques aussi bien que féministes ont été mises à l'étude.

Hongrie. Mme. Meller nous a envoyé un intéressant rapport dont nous ne pouvons malheureusement donner, qu'un aperçu.—La Eyesulete a organisé avec succès une série de douze conférences sur la position

de la femme dans le domaine privé ou public et sur sa situation économique en général.

Appuyée par d'autres organisations la Eyesulete a présenté une pétition au Gouvernement protestant contre l'injustice faite aux femmes par la Convention de la Haye sur la Nationalité et manifestant aussi leur crainte de voir la liberté de la femme restreinte dans son travail. Les Ministres du Commerce et de la Justice ont répondu que pour leur part ils n'avaient aucune intention de congédier les femmes employées dans leurs services.

Notes d'Irlande. Les associations irlandaises de citoyennes ont été grandement encouragées par la visite de Miss Alison Neilans. Elle fut présente aux réunions de Dublin et de Belfast et ses conseils ont été particulièrement utiles à Dublin. La législation de l'Etat libre est en retard sur celle de l'Irlande du Nord en ce qui concerne l'âge du consentement. Mais il y a un projet de loi à l'étude pour élever l'âge à 17 ou 18 ans.

Université de Dublin. Miss Alice Constance Pursar a été élue déléguée du Sénat au Conseil de l'Université.

Dublin admet les femmes docteurs comme agrégés du Collège des Médecins. Londres les bannit encore.

ENCORE DES FEMMES PARLEMENTAIRES.

Trois femmes sont élues au Parlement de Norvège: Dr. Signe Swensson, Mrs. Helga Karlsen and Mrs. Helga Ramstad.

A Victoria, Australie, Lady Peacock est élue à l'Assemblée législative.

En France le Sénat, par 175 votes contre 118, a refusé d'assigner une date à la discussion du Suffrage des Femmes.

ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

L'Acte de Réorganisation Industrielle Nationale (N.I.R.A.) comprend environ mille codes dont le principe est la répartition équitable du Travail. Deux cents codes ont déjà été discutés en public. Le premier en date réglemente l'industrie du textile. Le travail des jeunes gens au dessous de 16 ans est aboli; exception peut être faite pour les enfants de 14 à 16 ans si l'emploi se limite à 3h. par jour.

Dans les codes temporaires (blanket codes) déjà en vigueur il n'y a—en principe—aucune différenciation de salaire pour raison de sexe, cependant certaines industries ont déjà réussi à faire accepter un salaire minimum pour les femmes, inférieur à celui des hommes de deux à cinq "cents" de l'heure—mais dans presque tous les codes une clause a été insérée "que les salaires minimum ne doivent en aucun cas justifier une différenciation entre les sexes et que dans les industries où hommes et femmes accomplissent le même travail, le même tarif doit être appliqué.

La prohibition du travail juvénile a pour résultat une plus large fréquentation scolaire. L'Administration des Travaux Publics a autorisé la construction de bâtiments supplémentaires pour les Ecoles.

Miss Belle Sherwin présidente du Comité exécutif de la Ligue Nationale des Electrices nous écrit que les mesures d'Assistance publique et d'amélioration économique soutenues par la Ligue, ont été largement acceptées par la Législature des Etats. Dans huit états la Ligue a soutenu avec succès l'Amendement au Travail Juvenile et dans neuf états la Ligue a réussi à faire mettre en minorité des projets de loi exigeant la démission des travailleuses mariées. D'autres projets de loi soutenus par la Ligue se rapportent au Statut Légal de la Femme, à l'Hygiène Sociale et au Coût de la Vie.

SUÈDE.

"Les Femmes, en face de la Crise Mondiale" tel était le sujet d'un meeting public tenue à Stockholm à la fin d'Octobre. Meeting de protestation organisé par diverses sociétés féminines contre l'attitude, générale en Europe, sur la question du travail des femmes.

Fröken Kerstin Hesselgren avait la présidence et parmi les orateurs se firent entendre: Dr. Lydia Wahlström, Fröken Elisabeth Tamm, Fröken Ingeborg Walin, Fru Signe Wessman et Dr. Andrea Andreen-Svedberg.

Une résolution fut adoptée, dont voici la substance: "Une des conquêtes les plus importantes de notre civilisation est la valeur individuelle reconnue à tout être humain quelque soit le sexe, la race ou la position sociale. Cette valeur semble s'être perdue dans les conditions actuelles et en conséquence la liberté et la justice ne seront plus bientôt les principes sur lesquels une société idéale est fondée.

La réaction attaque spécialement le droit des femmes au travail. Aussi nous, femmes Suédoises sommes décidées à défendre

(1) Notre droit à l'éducation professionnelle et à l'exercice de notre profession.

(2) Notre droit et notre devoir de placer notre expérience et nos aptitudes au service de la communauté.

DECES.

La doctoresse Elizabeth Knight une des premières suffragettes vient de mourir à Brighton à l'âge de 64 ans. En 1908 après une réclamation pour le Suffrage à Downing St. elle fut emprisonnée par la police de Mr. Asquith. Gradué de Newnham (Cambridge) Miss Knight fit ses études de médecine à l'Ecole de médecine pour les femmes de Londres. Elle fut assistante de clinique dans divers hôpitaux pour les femmes et les Enfants. Elle même une quakeresse, elle reposera au Cimetière de "la Société des Amis" à Brighton.

LEGISLATION POUR LES FEMMES DANS L'INDUSTRIE.

Belgique. Cette enquête a été menée par Mme. Maria Baers, Secrétaire générale de l'organisation des ouvrières chrétiennes et membre du Conseil supérieur du Travail.

(1) Lois et règlements concernant les ouvriers adultes, hommes et femmes.

Travail de nuit. La journée de travail normale de 8h. se place entre six heures du matin et huit heures du soir. Le travail de nuit est prohibé pour toutes les femmes. Le repos de nuit durera 11 heures consécutives—entre 10h. du soir et 5h. du matin. Il y a une loi prohibant le travail des femmes dans l'industrie du plomb.

Une loi est en cours de discussion pour la fixation d'un salaire minimum pour les industries à domicile.

(2) *Règlements de maternité.* Il est défendu aux mères de travailler pendant les quatre premières semaines après la naissance d'un enfant. Il n'existe pas encore d'Allocation obligatoire mais un projet l'insérant dans la loi d'Assurance sociale est à l'étude.

Les ouvrières mariées ne font l'objet d'aucune discrimination.

(3) La législation minière défend aux femmes le travail dans les mines et les restrictions de la législation protectrice ne paraissent pas avoir diminué les chances de travail ou le chiffre du salaire. Depuis la fixation de la journée de 8h. le nombre des ouvrières s'est accru, particulièrement le nombre des ouvrières mariées—et des femmes ont été introduites dans certaines industries où le travail n'est pas adapté à leurs forces.

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